



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Ouachita National Forest
Mena Ranger District

1603 Highway 71 N
Mena, AR 71953

File Code: 1950
Route To: (1950)

Date: August 5, 2019

Subject: Public Scoping for Mine Creek Dam Removal

Dear National Forest Stakeholder:

This project announcement letter serves to initiate scoping, "an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed" (40 CFR 1501.7). Scoping is required for all Forest Service proposed actions, including those that would appear to be categorically excluded from further analysis and documentation in an EA or an EIS (36 CFR 220.4C(1)).

This proposal consists of removing a concrete dam to provide for connectivity of Mine Creek to the Cossatot River for aquatic organisms as well as for movement of stream material. The dam is located half on private lands and half on US Forest Service lands. Access to remove the dam with heavy equipment has been granted on the private land that adjoins the dam at (Township 3S, Range 29W, Section 32) South of Mena Arkansas.

Proposed Action

The Ouachita National Forest proposes to issue a decision memo authorizing the removal of the described concrete dam structure on Mine creek. Unless scoping identifies extraordinary circumstances, this project is within a category of actions that is excluded from documentation in an EA or an EIS; only a decision will be documented. If you have questions about this project or would like more information, please contact *Mitzi Cole* at (479) 394-2382 or mitzi.cole@usda.gov Mena/Oden District Ranger, *1603 Hwy 71 North, Mena, AR, 71953*. Your comments would be most helpful if received by August 19, 2019.

Thank you for your continuing interest in the management of your National Forest.

Sincerely,

TIM OOSTERHOUS
District Ranger



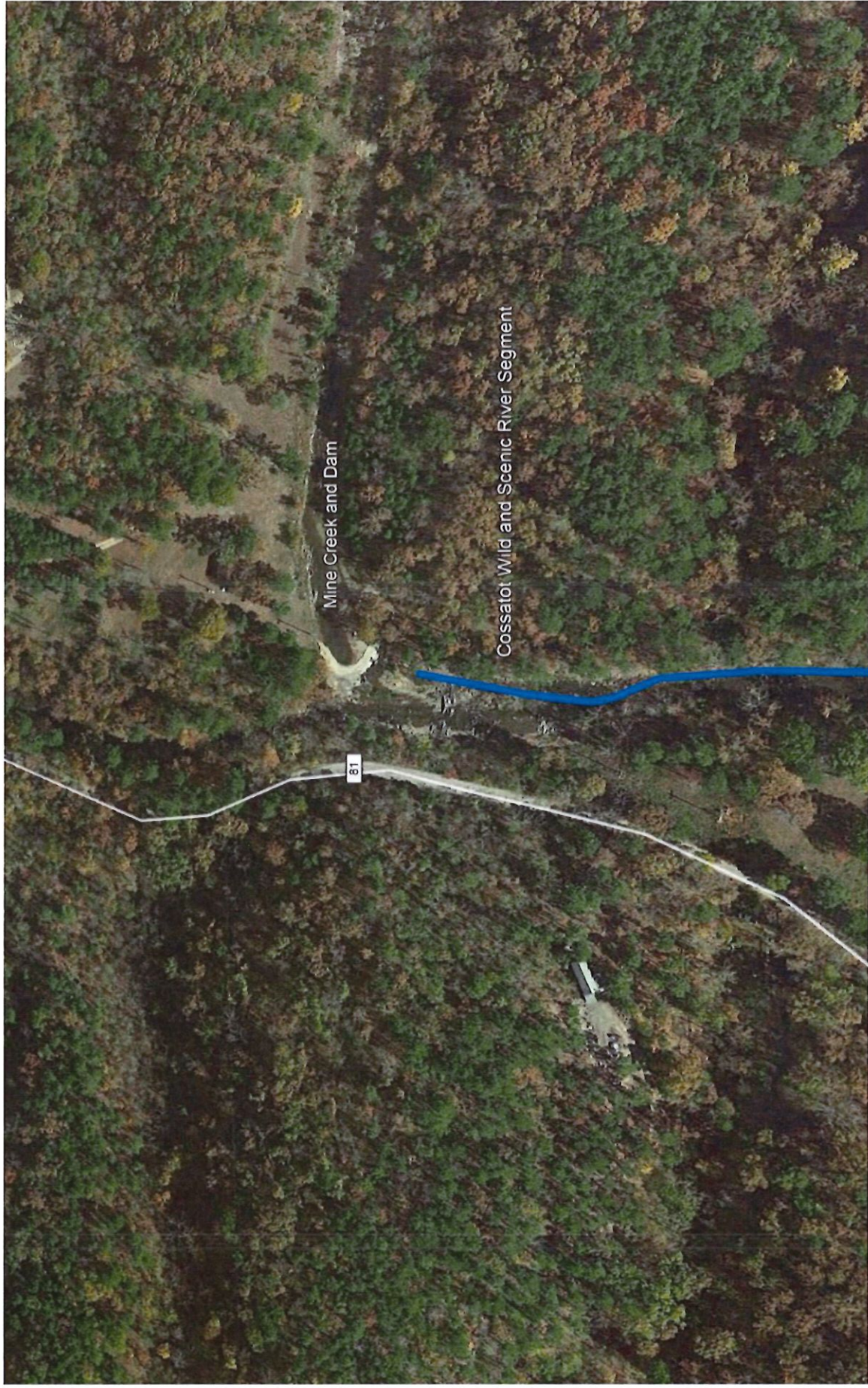


Figure 1 Location map of Mine Creek Dam near the confluence of Mine Creek and the Cossatot River, AR.